



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FUGITIVE INDICTED IN ARMED ROBBERY CONSPIRACY SURRENDERS TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a fugitive who was indicted more than five years ago for his role in a multi-million dollar conspiracy to commit a series of armed robberies in the Kansas City area – including the holdups of five jewelry stores and six other businesses – has turned himself in to federal authorities.

**Antonio Mitchell**, 31, of Kansas City, Mo., surrendered to federal authorities this afternoon. **Mitchell** was originally indicted by a federal grand jury on Jan. 4, 2000, for participating in a conspiracy to commit 11 armed robberies from December 1996 to December 1998, as well as for the armed robbery of Meierotto's Midwest Jewelry, 4311 N.E. Vivion Road in Kansas City-North, on Feb. 24, 1997, and for use of a firearm in a crime of violence.

**Mitchell** was among seven co-defendants charged in the original indictment, which was replaced on March 15, 2000, by a superseding indictment that added two more co-defendants for a total of nine defendants.

The 11 armed robberies referenced in the indictment include:

- \* Facets Jewelry Store, 334 W. 75<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, on Dec. 24, 1996.
- \* Meierotto's Midwest Jewelry, 4311 N.E. Vivion Rd., Kansas City, on Feb. 24, 1997.
- \* H.B. Ltd. Gems & Designs, 7297 W. 97<sup>th</sup> St., Overland Park, Kan., on Sept. 11, 1997.
- \* Golden Goose Jewelry Store, 1360 E. Meyer Blvd., Kansas City, on Sept. 17, 1997.
- \* Marsh's Apple Market, 3600 Broadway, Kansas City, on Oct. 3, 1997.
- \* Eckerd Drug, 6244 Brookside Boulevard, Kansas City, on Oct. 13, 1997.
- \* Piggly Wiggly, 1215 E. 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, on Oct. 14, 1997.
- \* Osco Drug, 4531 Troost, Kansas City, on Oct. 20, 1997.
- \* Linwood Super Foods, 130 E. Linwood, Kansas City, on Oct. 27, 1997.

- \* Tivol Jewelry, 220 W. Nichols Road, Kansas City, on Oct. 30, 1997.
- \* Roth's Jewelers, 6760 W. 75<sup>th</sup> Street, Overland Park, on Dec. 21, 1997.

Four co-defendants were convicted by a jury after a nearly month-long trial:

\* **Michael Hatcher**, 48, of Grandview, Mo., was found guilty of one count of conspiracy, two counts of armed robbery affecting interstate commerce, and two counts of carrying a firearm in a crime of violence. **Hatcher** was sentenced to 42 years and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Hatcher** to pay \$1,341,217 in restitution.

\* **Nathaniel Kenny**, 37, of Kansas City, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy, one count of robbery affecting interstate commerce, and one count of carrying a firearm in a crime of violence. **Kenny** was sentenced to 22 years and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Kenny** to pay \$1,131,144 in restitution.

\* **Angelo Porrello**, 77, and his son, **Joseph Anthony Porrello**, 35, both of Kansas City, were both found guilty of one count of conspiracy, two counts of armed robbery affecting interstate commerce, two counts of carrying a firearm in a crime of violence and two counts of money laundering. **Joseph Porrello** was sentenced to 35 years and one month in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Joseph Porello** to pay \$2,417,903 in restitution. **Angelo Porrello** was sentenced to 39 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Angelo Porello** to pay \$2,417,903 in restitution.

The same jury acquitted a fifth defendant, **Michael McCarthy**, 50, of Kansas City.

Three co-defendants who were indicted in the case pleaded guilty.

\* **Karl Carter**, 30, of Kansas City, was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Carter** to pay \$2,417,903 in restitution.

\* **Keith Rayford**, 31, of Kansas City, was sentenced to six years and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Rayford** to pay \$1,377,671 in restitution.

\* **Torin Riley**, 34, of Kansas City, was sentenced to six years and six months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Riley** to pay \$90,912 in restitution.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul S. Becker and Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas City, Mo., and Overland Park, Kan., police departments, and Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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